

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 16, 17 and 27-54 are pending. Claims 1, 16, 27, 37, 39, 43, 45, 49 and 51 have been amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1-4, 30, 31 and 37-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Noted with appreciation is the indication in the Office Action that this rejection would be withdrawn if independent Claim 1 were amended to recite that the second information blocks are output and stored on a host. After careful consideration, Claim 1 has been amended instead to recite that the second information blocks are output from the integrated circuit to an external host, but Claim 1 does not require storage on the host. Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection is overcome.

Claims 1-4, 16, 17, 27-29, 34, 37-39, 43-45 and 49-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Edwards U.S. Patent No 6,732,307 (hereinafter Edwards). Claims 30, 32 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Edwards in view of Teich et al U.S. Patent No. 6,229,808 (hereinafter Teich). Claims 31, 33 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Edwards in view of Baldwin et al U.S. Patent No. 5,953,339 (hereinafter Baldwin). Claims 40-42, 46-48 and 52-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Edwards in view of Baldwin, and further in view of Horie U.S. Patent No. 5,790,398 (hereinafter Horie).

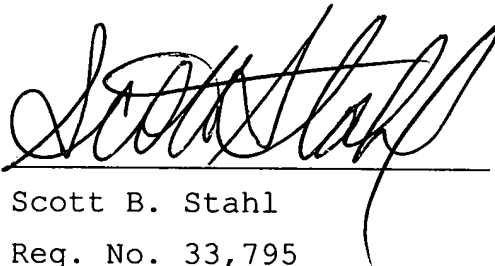
The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections set forth above are overcome for the following exemplary reasons.

Claims 1-4, 16, 17 and 27-54, as presented hereinabove, recite that X consecutive first information blocks define a sequence of consecutive bits of emulation information; that Y consecutive second information blocks also define the same sequence of consecutive bits; and that $X \neq Y$. This exemplary feature of Claims 1-4, 16, 17 and 27-54 finds support, for example, in Figures 23-23B, and the corresponding descriptions in the specification. For the literal claim language, attention is directed to lines 7-11 and 17-22 of independent Claim 1; lines 7-12 and 18-23 of independent Claim 16; and lines 14-18 and 24-29 of independent Claim 27.

The above-described exemplary feature of Claims 1-4, 16, 17 and 27-54 has not been found to be taught or suggested in any of the aforementioned prior art references.

Applicant submits in view of the foregoing that all pending claims are allowable, and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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